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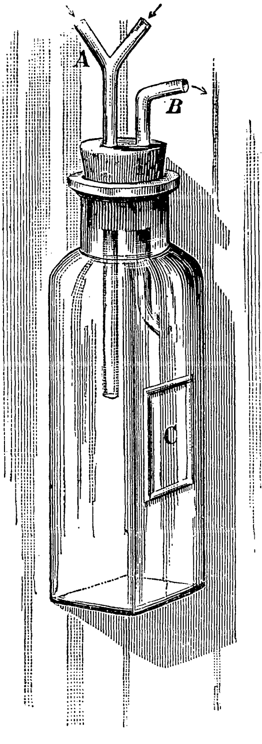
and have prohibited the Loochooans from paying tribute to China or from holding commercial intercourse with that country. The course pursued by Japan was deeply resented by China, and war between the two countries seemed for a while highly probable. Prince Kung and the viceroy Li Hung Chang requested General Grant to act as mediator, but the Japanese were unwilling to submit the case to arbitration, and the question still remains unsettled, and prevents the existence of anything like cordiality between the governments of China and Japan.—*D. Bethune McCartee, M.D.*

MICROSCOPY.[1]

Orienting Objects in Paraffine.—In the *Zool. Anz.*, No. 199, Selenka has described a method of keeping paraffine melted while the contained small objects are being arranged under the microscope in any desired position, and then of rapidly cooling the paraffine without disturbing the position of the objects.



Finding it difficult to make tubes such as he describes, which should be of such shape as to admit of removing the hardened paraffine readily, and at the same time with depressions of sufficient size for any but very minute objects, I have made use of the following simple device, which, though more clumsy than the tube of Selenka, can be used for objects 1 mm. long and much larger, while giving a block of paraffine of very regular shape and with rectangular sides.

A common flat medicine-bottle is fitted with a cork through which two tubes pass, or if the mouth is small one tube may be fastened into a hole drilled into the bottle. One of these tubes (*A*) is connected with hot and cold water; the other (*B*) is a discharge-pipe for the water entering the bottle by (*A*), and raising or lowering its temperature as warm or cold water is allowed to flow in. On the smooth flat side of the bottle four pieces of glass rods or strips are cemented fast so as to enclose a rectangular space (*C*) which forms a receptacle for the melted paraffine. As long as the warm water circulates through the bottle the paraffine remains fluid, and objects in it may be arranged under the microscope by light from above or below, and can be oriented with reference to the sides of the paraffine-receptacle or with reference to lines drawn upon the surface of the bottle.

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[1] Edited by Dr. C. O. Whitman, Milwaukee.

When the cold water is allowed to enter in place of the warm, the paraffine congeals rapidly and may be easily removed as one piece. The discharge-pipe should open near the upper surface of the bottle, to draw off any air which may accumulate there.—*E. A. Andrews.*

Orientation of Small Objects for Section-Cutting.—It is frequently a very difficult matter to properly orient small objects, especially spherical eggs, so that sections may pass through any desired plane. In my work on the embryology of the common shrimp I have found the following process very convenient. Impregnation with paraffine is accomplished in the usual way, and then the eggs (in numbers) in melted paraffine are placed in a shallow watch-crystal. They immediately sink to the bottom, and then the whole is allowed to cool. The crystal, glass upwards, is now placed on the stage of the microscope and the eggs examined under a lens. In this way one can readily see exactly how any egg lies, and then with a knife it may be cut out with the surrounding paraffine, and in such a way that it can readily be fastened to the block in any desired position. After all which have dropped in a suitable position are thus cut out, the paraffine is again melted, and after stirring the eggs the cutting out is continued as before.—*J. S. Kingsley.*

PSYCHOLOGY.

The Perception of Space by Disparate Senses.—The following is an abstract of an interesting paper by Mr. Joseph Jastrow on the nature of space conceptions, contributed to *Mind*, vol. xi. p. 539. It records the result of experiments made on different persons at the Psychophysical Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore:

In order to approach the problem by experimental methods it will be necessary to define accurately such terms as sight, touch, motion. The following classification, though provisional and imperfect, will perhaps be found convenient. We can obtain the notion of extension:

I. By the stimulation of a definite portion of a sensitive surface.

(1) Of the retina (where the distance of the stimulating object must be inferred);

(2) Of the skin,

(*a*) By the application of a pair of points, leaving the intermediate skin unstimulated, or (*a*) stimulating it by the application of a straight edge;